



For grades
K-1

The Bookworm

From your
local library
and Idaho's Read
to Me program

The ABCs

Children who know the shapes and names of the letters of the alphabet, and how to write them, have a much easier time learning to read. This is called "letter" or "alphabetic" knowledge. Once children can name the upper and lowercase letters, they begin learning the sounds that go with them.

Here are some ways you can support your kindergartener:

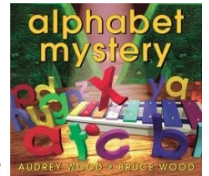
- Point out letters and have your child name them.
- Make an alphabet book with your child (see page 2)
- Point out letters and sounds on labels, boxes, newspapers and signs.
- When your child is writing, encourage her to spell words by using what she knows about sounds and letters.
- Encourage your child to write emails, notes, letters, lists, greeting cards, etc.

Here are some ways you can support your first grader:

- Say the sounds of letters and ask your child to write the letter or letters that represent the sound.
- Say a word your child knows, then help her write the word the way she hears it.
- Write a word on paper. Cut the letters apart, mix them up, and have your child put them back together.
- Encourage your child to write emails, notes, letters, lists, greeting cards, etc.
- Listen to your child read books out loud.

Book of the Month

***Alphabet Mystery*, by
Audrey Wood, illustrated
by Bruce Wood**



Little X is missing from Charley's Alphabet, and the other lowercase letters go off to solve the mystery of his disappearance, learning in the end how valuable a little X can be.

Audrey and Bruce Wood have published lots of books for children. You and your child can visit their website at www.audreywood.com for a list of books, games and activities, and lots more!



DON & AUDREY WOOD

More great ABC books...

Alphabet Rescue, Audrey Wood

A Isn't for Fox: an Isn't Alphabet, Wendy Ulmer

Alpha Oops!: the Day Z Went First, Alethea Kontis

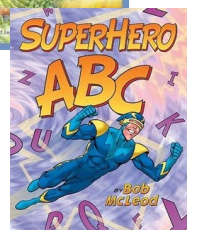
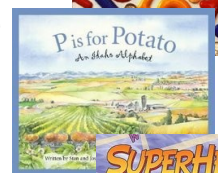
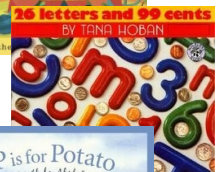
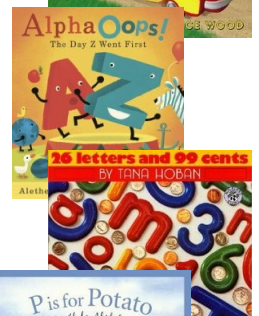
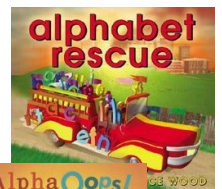
26 Letters and 99 Cents,
Tana Hoban

P is for Potato: an Idaho Alphabet, local authors Stan and Joy Steiner

T is for Teachers: a School Alphabet, Steven Layne

Q is for Duck: an Alphabet Guessing Game, Mary Elting

Superhero ABC, Bob McCleod



More fun with *Alphabet Mystery*

Act on it... There are some great words to talk about in this story! Help your child act out words such as, "shocked, zoomed, crooked, tiptoed, tremble, miserable, and blasted."

Out and about... Play I Spy with letters and sounds. "I spy with my little eye a 'B' on that sign!" "Can you spy other letter B's?" With sounds: "I spy with my little eye something that begins with a 'buh' sound." With older children, focus on blends of letters (dr, ch, str), ending sounds, or tricky vowel sounds (oo, ow, aw).



Arts and crafts... Make an ABC book. Staple or tape blank sheets of paper together to form a 26-page booklet. Help your child write an upper and lowercase letter for each page. Use old magazines or catalogs and have your child cut out pictures of things that begin with that letter. Glue into book. Older children can label the pictures, thinking about the sounds they hear. Invite your child to read the book when it is finished!

Great Winter Books

Snuggle up and get cozy with these favorites...

Snowmen at Night, Caralyn Buehner

The Snowy Day, Ezra Jack Keats

Owl Moon, Jane Yolen

Snowballs, Lois Ehlert

Bear Snores On, Karma Wilson

Snow, Uri Shulevitz

The Mitten, Jan Brett

Twelve Days of Winter, Deborah Lee Rose



Song

Snowkey Pokey

(Sung to the tune of the Hokey Pokey)

You put your right mitten in,
you take your right mitten out,
you put your right mitten in
and you shake it all about.

You do the snowkey pokey
and you turn yourself around.
That's what it's all about.

Additional verses:

You put your left mitten in . . .
You put your right boot in . . .
You put your left boot in . . .
You put your hat in . . .
You put your snowself in . . .



You can hear the Hokey Pokey tune and watch a video at

http://bussongs.com/songs/hokey_pokey.php

What your library can do for you...

Your librarian can help you find more books and activities to help your child learn about letters!

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